

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.(canceled) A carrier for carrying an object within an interior of the carrier, the carrier comprising:

a first half having a first hinge element;

a second half having a second hinge element;

the first and second hinge elements mating to form a hinge to permit the first and second halves to move between an open position and a closed position;

at least one main latch movable between a latched position and an unlatched position to hold the first and second halves in a closed position in the latched position of said at least one main latch, said main latch including a stationary portion secured to the first half, said stationary portion defining a guide, a movable portion mounted to the stationary portion for sliding motion between a first limit and a second limit, and a cam mounted to the second half, the movable portion engaging the cam to move the first and second halves into the closed position as the movable portion is moved toward the first limit

2.(canceled) A carrier of claim 1, further comprising a safety latch to hold the main latch in the latched position.

3.(canceled) A carrier of claim 2, wherein said safety latch is formed with a knob to engage the movable portion when the movable portion is in the latched position, the safety latch sufficiently flexible so that contact with the knob permits deflection of the safety latch away from the movable portion to permit the movable portion to be moved to the unlatched position.

4.(canceled) A carrier of claim 2 wherein the safety latch is formed integrally with the stationary portion.

5.(canceled) A carrier of claim 3 wherein the movable portion has an opening therethrough, the knob of the safety latch entering the opening in the latched position, the knob of the safety latch engaging the movable portion in the latched position.

6.(canceled) A carrier of claim 5 wherein the safety latch is formed of a resilient material.

7.(canceled) A latch for a device, the device having a first member and a second member, the latch comprising:
a base mounted to the second member;
a cam mounted to the first member and having a camming surface;
a movable portion mounted to the base for sliding movement between a first limit and a second limit, the movable portion having an opening therethrough;
a safety latch mounted to the base and having a flexible portion and a knob, the knob of the safety latch passing through the opening in the movable portion when the latch is in the latched position.

8.(canceled) A latch of claim 7 wherein the base and safety latch are integral.

9.(canceled) A latch of claim 7 wherein the base defines a guide, the movable portion sliding along the guide.

10.(canceled) A latch of claim 7 wherein the base, movable portion and safety latch are formed of an engineering plastic.

11.(canceled) A latch of claim 7 wherein the safety latch is formed of metal.

12.(canceled) A carrier for carrying an object within an interior of the carrier, the carrier comprising:
a first half having at least one channel;
a second half having at least one channel;
a wear band mounted on each of said halves, said wear band having a backing, the backing slidably received in the channel of said half.

13.(canceled) The carrier of claim 12 wherein the first and second halves are hinged together by a hinge, the hinge preventing said wear band from sliding out of a channel at the hinge.

14.(canceled) The carrier of claim 12 wherein the wear bands on each half are abutting when the first and second halves are in the closed position to prevent the wear bands from sliding out of the channels when the first and second halves are in the closed position.

15.(canceled) The carrier of claim 12 wherein the channels are molded into the first and second halves.

16.(original) A carrier for carrying an object within an interior of the carrier, the carrier comprising:
a first half;
a second half;
the first and second halves hinged together to permit the first and second halves to move

between an open position and a closed position, the first and second halves being formed of a anti-microbial material.

17.(canceled) A method for unlatching a latch on a carrier for carrying an object within the interior of the carrier, the method comprising the steps of:

deflecting a knob on a safety latch passing through an opening in a movable portion while the latch is in the latched position, the knob of the safety latch having a movable portion contact surface; and

moving the movable portion from a first limit to a second limit to move the latch to an unlatched position.

18.(canceled) A carrier for carrying an object within an interior of the carrier, the carrier comprising:

a first half;

a second half;

the first and second halves hinged together to permit the first and second halves to move between an open position and a closed position, the first and second halves having a plurality of recesses in the ends of the first and second halves to facilitate grasping the carrier.

19.(currently amended) The carrier of claim 16 wherein the first and second half are plastic, particles of glass containing ~~anti-microbial~~ metal ions molded therein.

20.(currently amended) The carrier of claim 19 wherein the ~~anti-microbial~~ metal ion is silver(Ag).

21.(original) The carrier of claim 16 wherein the first half has a first hinge element and the second half has a second hinge element;

the first and second hinge elements mating to form a hinge to permit the first and second halves to move between an open position and a closed position;

at least one main latch movable between a latched position and an unlatched position to hold the first and second halves in a closed position in the latched position of said at least one main latch, said main latch including a stationary portion secured to the first half, said stationary portion defining a guide, a movable portion mounted to the stationary portion for sliding motion between a first limit and a second limit, and a cam mounted to the second half, the movable portion engaging the cam to move the first and second halves into the closed position as the movable portion is moved toward the first limit.

22.(original) The carrier of claim 21, further comprising a safety latch to hold the main latch in the latched position.

23.(currently amended)
carrier, the carrier comprising:
a first half;

A carrier for carrying an object within an interior of the

a second half;
the first and second halves hinged together to permit the first and second halves to move between an open position and a closed position, the first and second halves being formed of a anti-microbial material and wherein the first half has a first hinge element and the second half has a second hinge element;

the first and second hinge elements mating to form a hinge to permit the first and second halves to move between an open position and a closed position;

at least one main latch movable between a latched position and an unlatched position to hold the first and second halves in a closed position in the latched position of said at least one main latch, said main latch including a stationary portion secured to the first half, said stationary portion defining a guide, a movable portion mounted to the stationary portion for sliding motion between a first limit and a second limit, and a cam mounted to the second half, the movable portion engaging the cam to move the first and second halves into the closed position as the movable portion is moved toward the first limit

a safety latch to hold the main latch in the latched position ~~A carrier of claim 22~~, wherein said safety latch is formed with a knob to engage the movable portion when the movable portion is in the latched position, the safety latch sufficiently flexible so that contact with the knob permits deflection of the safety latch away from the movable portion to permit the movable portion to be moved to the unlatched position.

24.(currently amended) A carrier for carrying an object within an interior of the carrier, the carrier comprising:

a first half;

a second half;

the first and second halves hinged together to permit the first and second halves to move between an open position and a closed position, the first and second halves being formed of a anti-microbial material and wherein the first half has a first hinge element and the second half has a second hinge element;

the first and second hinge elements mating to form a hinge to permit the first and second halves to move between an open position and a closed position;

at least one main latch movable between a latched position and an unlatched position to hold the first and second halves in a closed position in the latched position of said at least one main latch, said main latch including a stationary portion secured to the first half, said stationary portion defining a guide, a movable portion mounted to the stationary portion for sliding motion between a first limit and a second limit, and a cam mounted to the second half, the movable portion engaging the cam to move the first and second halves into the closed position as the movable portion is moved toward the first limit

a safety latch to hold the main latch in the latched position ~~A carrier of claim 22~~ wherein the safety latch is formed integrally with the stationary portion.

25.(original) A carrier of claim 23 wherein the movable portion has an opening therethrough, the knob of the safety latch entering the opening in the latched position, the knob of the safety latch engaging the movable portion in the latched position.

26.(original) A carrier of claim 25 wherein the safety latch is formed of a resilient material.

27.(original) A carrier of claim 22 wherein the base, movable portion and safety latch are formed of an engineering plastic.

28.(original) A carrier of claim 22 wherein the safety latch is formed of metal.

29.(canceled) A carrier of claim 16 wherein the first half has at least one channel, and the second half having at least one channel, the carrier further comprising;
a wear band mounted on each of said halves, said wear band having a backing, the backing slidably received in the channel of said half.

30.(canceled) The carrier of claim 29 wherein the first and second halves are hinged together by a hinge, the hinge preventing said wear band from sliding out of a channel at the hinge.

31.(canceled) The carrier of claim 29 wherein the wear bands on each half are abutting when the first and second halves are in the closed position to prevent the wear bands from sliding out of the channels when the first and second halves are in the closed position.

32.(canceled) The carrier of claim 29 wherein the channels are molded into the first and second halves.

33.(canceled) The carrier of claim 16 wherein the first and second halves have ends, the first and second halves having a plurality of recesses in ends of the first and second halves to facilitate grasping the carrier.

34.(canceled) A method for forming a carrier for carrying an object within the interior of the carrier, that carrier having first and second halves, the method comprising the step of:
molding the first and second halves of plastic with particles of glass containing anti-microbial metal ions.

35.(canceled) The method of claim 34 wherein the first and second halves are molded into identical shapes.

36.(canceled) The method of claim 34 wherein the metal ions are silver(Ag).